

Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO DOD/ISA

UNCLAS STATE 212076

FOR CDR MCVADON, ROOM 4D-800

FOLLOWING BELGRADE 4397 SENT ACTION SECSTATE JUNE 30, 1977
REPEATED TO YOU QUOTE

UNCLAS BELGRADE 4397

DIRECTOR GENERAL FROM EAGLEBURGER

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: APER AFSP ASUG
SUBJ: TOUR OF DUTY POLICY - BELGRADE

1. IT HAS BEEN ALMOST TWO WEEKS, CAROL, SINCE I LEFT
WASHINGTON (IT SEEMS LIKE MONTHS) AND I HAVE NOT
BOTHERED YOU ONCE. THUS, I KNOW YOU WILL NOW BE
PLEASED TO KNOW THAT I HAVE BEEN THINKING OF YOU
OFTEN, HAVE FOUND A POLICY I DISAGREE WITH, AND
KNOW YOU WILL WANT TO CHANGE IT.

2. THE TOUR OF DUTY POLICY FOR MIDDLE GRADE AND SENIOR
OFFICERS ASSIGNED TO BELGRADE IS 18 MONTHS, HOME LEAVE,
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AND RETURN FOR 18 MONTHS, MONTHS, OR A STRAIGHT 2 YEARS AND OUT.
I THINK THIS IS NONSENSE. LIFE IS NOT UNPLEASANT FOR
OUR OFFICERS (OR AT LEAST IT WASN'T UNTIL I GOT HERE),
WE SPEND A LOT OF MONEY AND TIME ON LANGUAGE TRAINING,
AND AS THINGS NOW STAND PEOPLE POP IN AND OUT OF
ASSIGNMENTS HERE LIKE YO-YOS. I WAS HORRIFIED TO LEARN
WHEN I GOT HERE, FOR EXAMPLE, THAT 16 OFFICERS

AND/OR STAFF EMPLOYEES ARE LEAVING THIS SUMMER
AND 15 ARRIVALS (NOT INCLUDING A WORKING SPOUSE)
ARE SCHEDULED TO ARRIVE. ACCORDING TO MY COUNT,
THAT LEAVES ABOUT 16 REMAINING ON THE SCENE.

3. I WANT, THEREFORE, TO ADD MY PERSONAL SUPPORT TO
THE INSPECTOR'S RECOMMENDATION THAT MIDDLE AND
SENIOR LEVEL OFFICER TOURS BE CHANGED TO A STRAIGHT
THREE YEARS AND OUT, OR TWO YEARS, HOME LEAVE, AND
RETURN FOR TWO YEARS. COMMUNICATORS, SECRETARIES
AND FIRST TOUR JUNIOR OFFICERS SHOULD HAVE A

STRAIGHT TWO YEAR ASSIGNMENT WITH OPTION TO EXTEND
TO THREE YEARS WITHOUT HOME LEAVE. (THIS SHOULD NOT,
OF COURSE, AFFECT PEOPLE ALREADY HERE, SINCE THEY ACCEPTED
ASSIGNMENT UNDER DIFFERENT GROUND RULES).

4. THIS CHANGE, IF IMPLEMENTED PROPERLY, SHOULD MAKE
IT POSSIBLE TO AVOID AN ANNUAL SUMMER TURNOVER OF
SOMETHING LIKE 50 PERCENT OF THE STAFF, WHILE GIVING OUR
OFFICERS SUFFICIENT TIME AT POST TO GET TO KNOW
THE COUNTRY AND USE THAT KNOWLEDGE EFFECTIVELY
BEFORE RUNNING ON TO A NEW ASSIGNMENT.

5. BESIDES, I SERVED HERE THREE YEARS STRAIGHT
WITHOUT ANY NOTICEABLE DAMAGE TO ME NOR TO
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YUGOSLAVIA (SOME MIGHT DISAGREE).

6. I WOULD APPRECIATE YOUR SYMPATHETIC CONSIDERATION
OF THIS MODEST PROPOSAL; AND YOU KNOW HOW UPSET
I GET WHEN I CAN'T HAVE MY OWN WAY.

7. I MISS YOU. EAGLEBURGER UNQUOTE CHRISTOPHER

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NNN

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